

Message Text

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E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. SOVIETS HIT US "PERMISSIVENESS"

USUN REPORTS THAT THE SOVIET NOTE OF PROTEST ON THE
APRIL 2 SHOOTING INCIDENT REFLECTS BOTH GRAVITY AND
ALARM. THE NOTE STATES THAT:

--IN A POLITICAL SENSE, THE INCIDENT CAN ONLY BE
REGARDED AS AN ATTEMPT TO ASSASSINATE AMBASSADOR
MALIK SINCE HE LIVES IN THE BUILDING WHERE THE
SHOOTING TOOK PLACE.

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--"AN ATMOSPHERE OF PERMISSIVENESS" PREVAILS WHICH

"BORDERS ON ENCOURAGEMENT" OF ATTACKS ON SOVIET DIPLOMATS.

EARLIER, THE SOVIET DEPUTY PERMREP HAD PROTESTED ORALLY TO AMBASSADORS SHERER AND SCRANTON THAT THE SOVIETS DO NOT UNDERSTAND US INACTION WHEN THE TITLES AND ADDRESSES OF THE ORGANIZATIONS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ATTACKS ARE KNOWN. THE AMBASSADORS CONVEYED DEEPEST SYMPATHIES AND PROMISED ENERGETIC ACTION.

THE FBI AND THE NEW YORK CITY POLICE ARE ACTIVELY PURSUING THE INVESTIGATION AND HAVE INCREASED PROTECTION FOR SOVIET OFFICIALS AND THEIR FAMILIES. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) USUN 1357, 1362, AND 1369, 4/2.

2. THAI GENERALS WANT MORE MONEY

ACCORDING TO EMBASSY BANGKOK, THE THAI ARMED FORCES HAVE PRESENTED REQUESTS FOR \$125 MILLION IN ADDITIONAL AUTHORIZATIONS TO A "VISIBLY SHAKEN" BUDGET BUREAU DIRECTOR. THE DEMANDS WERE MADE AT A MEETING HELD ON THE INSTRUCTIONS OF PRIME MINISTER KHUKRIT FOLLOWING HIS ASSURANCES THAT THAILAND'S MILITARY FORCES WOULD RECEIVE SUFFICIENT FUNDS FOR THEIR NEEDS AFTER THE DEPARTURE OF US TROOPS. THE REQUESTS:

--INCLUDE \$75 MILLION FOR THE PURCHASE OF A SQUADRON OF F-5E/F'S;

--RESULTED FROM ANGER OVER THE CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT'S HANDLING OF NEGOTIATIONS ON THE CONTINUED PRESENCE OF AMERICAN MILITARY PERSONNEL.

EMBASSY COMMENT: THE CIVILIAN AUTHORITIES THINK AN INCREASE IN DEFENSE SPENDING IS JUSTIFIED BUT DOUBT THE ABILITY OF THE THAI MILITARY TO EFFECTIVELY ABSORB SIGNIFICANT INCREASES. THE BUDGET BUREAU SEEMS CONFIDENT THAT THE DEMANDS FOR INCREASED FUNDS ARE NOT A PRELUDE TO ANY EXTRA-CONSTITUTIONAL ACTION BY THE THAI ARMED
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FORCES. (SECRET) BANGKOK 8249, 4/2.

3. SADAT'S SOFT SELL IMPRESSES FRG

GERMAN MFA DIRECTOR FOR NEAR EAST AFFAIRS BOECHER HAS TOLD EMBASSY BONN THAT SADAT BEGAN HIS VISIT WITH A CLEAR IDEA OF WHAT HE COULD AND COULD NOT EXPECT OF THE FRG. ACCORDING TO BOECHER:

--SADAT DID NOT ATTEMPT TO CHANGE GERMAN MINDS, BUT IMPRESSED SCHMIDT BY USING THE VISIT TO IMPROVE THE IMAGE OF HIMSELF AND EGYPT.

--IT IS UNLIKELY THAT SCHMIDT OR GENSCHER MADE ANY PRIVATE PROMISES TO RECOGNIZE THE PLO IN THE FUTURE.

--THE EGYPTIAN MINISTERS WITH SADAT PRESSED THE GERMANS FOR WEAPONS AND ADDITIONAL ECONOMIC

ASSISTANCE.

BOECHER ADDED THAT GENSCHER HAD REFRAINED FROM MAKING A STATEMENT ON THE PALESTINIANS BECAUSE:

--THE FRG PREFERS TO USE POTENTIAL RECOGNITION AS AN INDUCEMENT FOR THE PLO TO CHANGE ITS PUBLIC POSITION ON ISRAEL.

--SUPPORT FOR THE PLO COULD CAUSE ELECTION YEAR CRITICISM.

--SADAT DID NOT PRESS THE GERMANS TO CHANGE THEIR STANCE. (CONFIDENTIAL) BONN 5646, 4/2.

4. PRC: TENG STILL HAS A CHANCE

IT APPEARS THAT THE POLITICAL BALANCE IN CHINA HAS NOT BEEN SIGNIFICANTLY ALTERED DESPITE RECENT ATTACKS ON TENG. THE CURRENT IDEOLOGICAL DEBATE/POWER STRUGGLE SEEMS TO BE IN A CONSOLIDATION PHASE AND IS BEING TIGHTLY CONTROLLED. CONGEN HONG KONG ADDS:

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--THE ISSUES ARE MORE CLEARLY DEFINED AND ANTAGONISTS MORE UNMISTAKABLY IDENTIFIED IN THE PRESENT CAMPAIGN THAN DURING THE POST-CULTURAL REVOLUTION ERA.

--TENG MAY REMAIN OUT OF SIGHT FOR SOME TIME, MANIPULATING THOSE ELEMENTS HE CAN CALL UPON TO BLOCK HIS OPPONENTS' MOVES.

--THERE SEEMS TO BE SOME INTENT TO MAKE TENG'S FAILURE TO REPENT THE JUSTIFICATION FOR HIS ULTIMATE DEMOTION, BUT HIS ABILITY TO SURVIVE HAS NOT APPRECIABLY DIMINISHED.

--THE EFFECTS OF THE CAMPAIGN ON MAJOR POLITICAL,
MILITARY AND ECONOMIC ISSUES REMAIN TO BE WORKED
OUT. (SECRET) HONG KONG 3736, 4/2. KISSINGER

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